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Toy receives honors from Donate Life Coalition of Michigan and Michigan Dietetic Association

LANSING – Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia, was recently honored by two statewide organizations for her work on legislation to protect the health of Michigan citizens.

Toy received the 2005 Significant Progress Award from the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan for her legislation to establish the Organ and Tissue Donation Education Fund, which became law on December 29, 2004. The fund allows individuals to contribute to organ and tissue donation education programs when they renew their drivers' licenses.

Other awardees included WXYZ Channel 7 news personality Diana Lewis, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, and Barbara Gerber, mother of Jenni Gerber, age 27, who gave the ultimate gift by donating her organs to save others after a tragic car accident.

“It is my great hope that by increasing awareness and participation in organ donation and the organ donor registry in our state, we can ultimately save lives,” Toy said. “Michigan’s participation rate stands at about 7 percent, while the national rate is 40 percent. We have a long way to go here in Michigan, and I am honored to do my part.”

Toy also was been named Legislator of the Year by the Michigan Dietetic Association for her work promoting licensure for dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan. Toy is the sponsor of legislation to that effect, which is currently before the Senate’s Health Policy Committee.

“In the face of an ever-growing and constantly-changing body of knowledge about proper nutrition, consumers need to be able to rely on the expertise and ethical conduct of trusted professionals,” Toy said. “They should not be left guessing who has the proper credentials to help them in navigating the often confusing world of fad diets and conflicting information.”

Toy received the Donate Life Coalition of Michigan’s Significant Progress Award May 5 at the Park West Gallery in Southfield. She was honored by the Michigan Dietetic Association at their annual convention May 13 in Grand Rapids.

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